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THE
HISTORY
OF
ENGLAND.
FROM THE
NORMAN CONQUEST,
TO THE
UNION of the HOUSES
OF
YORK and LANCASTER.

Illustrated with the HEADS of all the
MONarchs.



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THE
HISTORY
OF
ENGLAND.



The NORMAN KINGS.



A. D. 1066.

WILLIAM, surnamed the *Conqueror*, was the Bastard Son of *Robert Duke of Normandy*, by a Mistress named *Harlotte*, (from whence some would derive the Word *Harlot*). He was crowned at *York* on *Christmas-Day*, 1066. *Edgar Atheling*, in Concert with *Danish Pirates*,

committed great Disorders in the North ; and the City of *York* being burnt, all the *Normans* in it were put to the Sword. His Son *Robert* endeavouring to make himself Master of *Normandy*, obliged him to carry over an Army thither ; when they were reconciled. After this he conquered *Wales*, and forced *Malcolm King of Scotland* to swear Fealty to him. *Philip King of France* having

having stirred up *Robert* against him, he went over into *Normandy*, and laying sick at *Rouen*, the *French* King demanded jestingly, *How long he intended to lie in?* *William* sent for an *Archbishop* that as soon as he had been *thurched*, he would offer 100 *Tapers* in *France*. Being recovered, he made an *Invasion* to *France*, and put a large *Exterior* of *Country* to *Fire* and *Sword*. *By overheating* himself in this *Expedition*, he fell ill and died. As to his *Character*, he was in *Person* tall and stout, which at last was troublesome to him; he was vigorous, laborious, and had a prodigious *Genus*. At the first he treated the *English* with great *Lenity*, and confirmed their *Laws* and *Liberties*; but when he found them contriving to dethrone him, he punished without *Mercy*, script the *Mutineers* of their *Possessions*, and gave them to *Normans*, or to such of the *English* as were faithful to him; he deprived the *Nation* of its *Privileges*, abolished its *Laws*, and established those of *Normandy*, which he ordered to be translated into that *Language*, and had it taught in all *Schools*; he caused a *Survey* to be taken of the whole *Kingdom*, which was set down in a *Book* called *Doomsday Book*, kept in the *Tower*, and laid a *Tax* of 6*s.* upon every *Hide*, or 100 *Acres* of *Land*; he first appointed *Justices* of the *Peace* and *Juries*, ordained the *Court* of *Chancery* and *Exchequer*, and built the *Tower of London*; he pulled down 36 *Parish Churches*, and levelled with the *Ground* as many *Towns* and *Villages* in *Hampshire* for 30 *Miles* in *Compass*, to make a *Chace* for hunting, now called *New Forest*; in which two of his Sons were killed as they were hunting. In his *Reign* the *Archbishop* of *Canterbury* was made *Primate of all England*, and the *Archbishop* of *York* *Primate of England*. In 1072 the *Earl* of *Huntington* was beheaded, the first *Nobleman* that ever was in *England*. In short, he governed at last like a *Conqueror* and *Tyrant*, which made his *Reign* turbulent and uneasy to him. When he was here, *Normandy* rebelled against him; when there, *England* did the same; *Scotland* and *Ireland* gave him *some*

some Trouble ; his Subjects did not love him, and his Neighbours could not endure him. He died in the 61st Year of his Age, and the 21st of his Reign ; leaving three Sons, *Robert*, *William* and *Henry*. *Robert* succeeded him in *Normandy*, *William* in *England*, and *Henry* after *William*. Some say he was crowned every Year anew.

F



A. D. 1087.

WILLIAM II. surnamed *Rufus*, the his elder brother *Robert* was living, got the Crown by the Influence of *Langfrank* Archbishop of *Canterbury* ; he was much opposed by his Brother *Robert*, but at last it was agreed, that *William* should pay him 300 Marks per

Annum, and that *Robert* should succeed him if he survived. He built *Westminster-Hall*, which is 270 Feet long, and 74 broad, and a Wall round the *Tower of London* ; he banished *Anselm* Archbishop of *Canterbury* for checking his Authority ; he made *Malcolm* King of the *Scots* tributary, and quelled several Rebellions in *Wales*. When he was going to ship off 20,000 Men for *Normandy*, Proclamation was made, that whoever would pay 12*s.* might stay at Home, which being preferred by all, it answered his Purpose, by raising a large Sum. He was afterwards killed in *New Forest* by an Arrow, shot accidentally by one *Walter Tyrell*, having reigned about thirteen Years ; his only good Quality was a remarkable Courage ; his Death was considered as a kind Providence to rid his Subjects of so bad a Prince ; he died without Issue, and was succeeded by his younger Brother.

In this King's Reign the Holy War was first undertaken, which continued near three hundred Years.

HENRY

A. D. 1100.



HENRY I. his elder Brother *Robert* being then gone to the *Holy Land*; on his Return he agreed with King *Henry* on the same Terms as his Brother *William* had done. He endeavoured to gain the Affections of his Subjects, by easing them of some Grievances; he con-

firmed all the Laws of *Edward the Confessor*, and established the Yard Measure. To please the Clergy he recalled *Archbishop Anselm*, who afterwards denying the King's Power over Bishops, was banished again. The greatest Blot of his Reign, was his Cruelty to his elder Brother *Robert*, whom he stripped of his Dukedom of *Normandy* (which was then annexed to the Crown of *England*) had him brought Prisoner to *England*, and kept him confined with hard Usage 26 Years in *Cardiff Castle*, in *Wales*; some say he put out his Eyes. In this Reign, the Sees of *Ely* and *Carlisle*, and *St. Bartholomew's Hospital* in *Smithfield* were founded; before then, all Malefactors were executed in *Smithfield*. Then lived *Geoffry of Monmouth*. The first Parliament of *England* was summond by this King at *Salisbury*: he gave the *Welch* a great Overthrow, and died by eating of Lampreys, after a Reign of 35 Years; leaving only one Daughter, *Maud*. She was first married to the Emperor *Henry V.* after to *Geoffry Plantagenet* Duke of *Anjou*, who was acknowledged as Heir to the Crown of *England*, and Allegiance sworn to her in his Life-time. He had a great Capacity, was brave, sober, but inexorable against Offenders; he was very handsome, and had a great Love for Learning, which gave him the Name of *Beau-Clark*; but he was cruel, lascivious and avaricious.

STEPHEN

A. D. 1135.

STEPHEN, Grandson of the Conqueror, by Alice his Daughter, and Stephen Earl of Blois, succeeded, by the Power of the Clergy, contrary to his Oath, in Prejudice to Maud the Empress, King Henry's Daughter. The Scots, and also his own Nobility, confiding in the



Strength of their Castles, gave him much Disturbance. But his greatest Contest was with the Empress *Maud*: Upon her landing, Numbers flocked to her; and she would have been successful had she not imprudently disengaged the *Londoners*, by refusing to restore King *Edward's* Laws. He had the Character of having great Courage, an elevated Genius, extensive Views, and a sound Judgment; he was perfectly skilled in the Military Arts, and great Experience, a wonderful Patience in concluding Treaties and forming Alliances; his Clemency and Munificence were the least of his Virtues; he had a majestic Person, and an obliging Air, which rendered him a most amiable Prince; he granted the *English* a very advantageous Charter, in which he acknowledged that he held the Crown only by the Election of the People and Clergy; he confirmed the Prerogatives of the Church; and abrogated all Laws which concerned hunting, and abolished *Danegelet*. He at last, on the Death of his Son *Eustace*, being taken Prisoner, adopted *Henry*, Son to *Maud* the Empress, to be his Successor, by which he was released, and enjoyed the Crown till his Death; he reigned 19 Years.

In this Reign great Part of the Cities of *London*, *York*, and *Rochester*, were destroyed by Fire.

N O R-

NORMAN and SAXON LINE United.



A. D. 1154.

HENRY II. Grandson of Henry I. and Son of Maud the Empress by Plantagenet, succeeded K. Stephen, in whom the Norman and Saxon Blood was united. His Father was Earl of Anjou, Touraine, and Maine; which French Provinces, in his own Right, became subject to

the Crown of England; to which was added the Duchy of Aquitaine, in Right of Eleanor his Wife; he recovered Westmoreland and Cumberland that had been subject to the Scots above 200 Years; he subdued the Welch, and conquered Ireland; a great Prince, but unhappy in a jealous Queen, and undutiful Sons, which gave him much Trouble. He had a Concubine called Rosamond, whom he kept at Woodstock; but his Queen, during his Absence in Normandy, caused her to be poisoned, for which she was imprisoned during the King's Life. Thomas Becket Archbishop of Canterbury occasioned him much Uneasiness: For refusing to punish several Rapes and Murders committed by the Clergy, he was banished by the King: But being afterwards recalled, and continuing very obstinate, he was murdered by four Courtiers in his own Cathedral, by knocking out his Brains near the Alter, whilst he was saying Vespers. For this the King was excommunicated by the Pope; and he submitted to a severe Penance, which was to walk three Miles bare-footed, and to receive 80 Lashes on the Back from the Monks of Canterbury. — Here was Passive Obedience from an humble King to an insolent Clergy! — As some have ranked Becket among the Martyrs, so others deny him the Title of an honest Man. King Henry had many

fine

fine Qualities, he was brave, generous, magnificent, clement, just and prudent; but his Ambition and Lust were insatiable; his Desire of enlarging his Dominions, was unbounded; and his Anger extremely violent; he permitted the Laws of *England* to be revived, and confirmed the Charter of *Henry I.* his Grandfather; he reigned 35 Years, and was succeeded by his Son.

In this Reign *London Bridge* was first built with Wood.

Coaches were now first used in *England*.

The Town of *Leicester* was burnt by the King's Command.

He divided the Kingdom into six Circuits, and appointed three itinerant Justices for each of them.



A D. 1189.

RICHARD I. for his Valour surnamed *Cœur de Lion*. He raised an Army of 35,000 Men, to go to the Wars in the *Holy Land*; and the Government of *England* he left to his Brother *John*, and the Bishop of *Ely* his Chancellor. He greatly signalized himself in that

War; he took the Isle of *Cyprus*, but being deserted by the French he returned Home without taking *Jerusalem*. Coming Home through *Germany*, he was taken Prisoner in the Emperor's Dominions, who imposed on him a prodigious Ransom. About his Time lived *Robin Hood* and *Little John*, two generous Robbers, who robbed the Rich, and relieved the Poor. During his Reign, the City of *London* began a new Form of Government by dividing themselves into Companies. He died in the 43d Year of his Age, and the 10th of his Reign.

JOHN

A. D. 1199.

JOHN, surnamed *le* *Juste*, without Land, succeeded his Brother by Virtue of his last Will; though his Nephew *Arthur*, Son of his elder Brother *Geoffry*, was then living; and being afterwards taken Prisoner, was murdered by Order of his Uncle; from which Time



the King never prospered, and *England* was reduced to the greatest Misery.—Because he preferred one to the See of *York*, against the Pope's Order, he was excommunicated, the Kingdom interdicted, and given to *Philip* the *French* King, and all his Subjects absolved from their Oaths of Allegiance; so that for above six Years the People lived like Heathens, by Command of his Holiness the Pope. *Philip*, taking Advantage of this, seized upon the *English* Possessions in *France*, and prepared to invade *England*. The Barons here, who hated the King, rose up in Arms, and called in *Louis*, the *Dauphin* of *France*, to be their King. But though he landed at *Sandwich*, he was forced soon after to return back; for King *John*, to extricate himself, did meanly submit to the Pope, subjected the Crown of *England* to his Holiness, and engaged to pay him a Tribute of 10,000 Marks a Year. After many Rencounters between the King and his Barons, he was at last compelled to grant them all they required, and signed the *Charter of Liberties*, or *Magna Charta*, and the *Charter of Forests*, which have since been the Foundation of the Liberties of this Nation; he granted the City of *London* Liberty to chuse a Mayor yearly; and in 1209 *London Bridge*, before of *Wood*, was built with Stone by three Merchants of *London*. He had the Character of being soft, indolent, fearful and irresolute; cruel, voluptuous and covetous; had

had neither Faith, Religion, Conscience, or Honour; he reigned about 17 Years, and was succeeded by his eldest Son at the Age of ten Years.



A. D. 1216.

HENRY III. His exorbitant Kindness to Foreigners, and Neglect of his own Subjects, incensed the Barons against him, and the Earl of *Leicester* their Head, took him, his Son *Edward*, and his Brother *Richard*, Prisoners. But Prince *Edward* making

his Escape, he raised a Body of Troops, encountered the Earl of *Leicester*, who with one of his Sons lost their Lives and the Battle, and by this Means procured the King's Liberty; he was a Prince of very inconsiderable Parts, naturally inconstant and capricious; he was excessively greedy of Money, and strangely squandered it away; he had little to be applauded for, but his Continence and Aversion to Cruelty; his suffering himself to be governed by haughty, self-interested Counsellors, and the arbitrary Maxims instilled into him from his Infancy, were the real Causes of the Commotions which disturbed his Reign; he confirmed the Statute of *Magna Charta*. He made his eldest Son Prince of *Wales*, which Title the King's eldest Son hath retained ever since. He fortified the Tower of *London* with a Bulwark, which was built twice, and was twice overthrown in one Year's Time. He caused a Chest of Gold to be made for laying up the Relicks of *Edward the Confessor* in *Westminster-Abbey*. For 300,000*l.* he renounced all his Right to *Normandy* and the other *French* Provinces; he reigned 56 Years, and was succeeded by his eldest Son.

EDWARD.

A. D. 1272.

EDWARD I. He was returning from the *Holy Land*, with *Eleanor* his Wife, when his Father died. After his Return he awed *France*, subdued *Wales*, and after many great Skirmishes he conquered *Scotland*. In his Reign Farthings and Half-pence were first made, and

Corn sold by Weight. Queen *Eleanor* his Consort dying near *Lincoln*, was brought to be interred at *Westminster*, and at every Place the Corpse rested, he built a Cross with her Image on it. *Coventry Cross*, *Cheapside*, and *Charing-Cross*, were three of them; he was well shaped, only his Legs too long, and therefore called *Long Shanks*; he was an excellent King, a good Father, a formidable Enemy, a brave Captain; chaste, just, prudent and moderate: and so great was his Affection for the *Holy Land*, that he ordered his Heart to be carried thither after his Death, and left 32,000*l.* Sterling to maintain a Sepulchre; he reigned 34 Years. In his Time the *Jews* were banished *England*, and all their Effects seized, but what they took with them.

A. D. 1307.

EDWARD II. his eldest Son, succeeded him; he was one of the most handsome and best shaped Men of the Age, but he had no Beauties of Mind to answer those of his Body; he was an unfortunate Prince, hated by his Nobles, and slighted by the Commons; he rendered himself odious to his Subjects, by his great



Attachment to his Favourites *Pierce Gaveston*, and the *Spencers*, whose intolerable Oppressions he countenanced to the Hazard of his Crown. But all these fell Victims to an injured People, as well as the King. *Gaveston* was beheaded, and the two *Spencers* were cut to Pieces; and the Barons having taken up Arms against the King, he was forced by them and the Parliament to resign the Crown to Prince *Edward* his Son, and soon after was cruelly murdered by *Meals* of the Queen, and *Mortimer* her Favourite; her Name was *Isabella*, Sister to *Charles IV. of France*. King *Edward* was unsuccessful against the *Scots*, who recovered their Liberty, and forced the *English* to quit that Kingdom. It is remarkable that the two Persons who perpetrated the King's Death, came to an untimely End, for one was hanged, and the other perished for Want; and *Mortimer* was hanged at *Tyburn* for falsely accusing the Earl of *Kent*, the late King's Brother, of embezzling the public Treasure, who had been, through the Intrigues of the Queen and *Mortimer*, beheaded; and the Queen was confined for Life. In his Reign there happened the most dreadful Earthquake ever known in *England*; also a Famine that lasted three Years, so that Men devoured one another. He reigned 20 Years.



two Kingdoms. Notwithstanding the pretended *Salique Law*, which excluded Females and their Descendants from

A. D. 1327.

EDWARD III. a Youth of fourteen, succeeded his Father. He proved one of the greatest Princes that ever sat on the *English Throne*; he subdued *Scotland*, conquered *France* and appointed himself to be called King of *England* and *France*, and quartered the Arms of the

from the Crown, he pursued his Title to it, in Right of the Queen his Mother, Daughter of *Philip the Fair*, and Sister of *Charles the Fair*, upon his Death, to whom *Philip de Valois* was only Cousin, *Edward*, called the *Black Prince*, the King's eldest Son, got two signal Victories over the *French*, the one at *Creasy*, the other at *Poictiers*; and in the last took the *French* King *John*, and his youngest Son *Philip*, Prisoners. The Queen also routed the *Scots* near *Durham*, and took *David Bruce*, then King, Prisoner; *Baliol* being before, by the Influence of a strong Party dethroned. King *Edward* had the Glory to have two foreign Kings Prisoners in the Tower of *London*; the above-named *John* and *David*, Kings of *France* and *Scotland*: a noble Subject of Triumph! In his Reign was first instituted the most noble *Order of the Garter*, and the Title of Duke of *Cornwall* first conferred on his Son Prince *Edward*, which has ever since belonged to the King's eldest Son. This *Edward*, Prince of *Wales*, called the *Black Prince*, because he wore black Armour, was the most valiant Hero of the Age, and having gained immortal Glory by a Number of illustrious Actions, died at forty-six, in the Flower of his Age, regretted by the whole Nation. He was brave, without Ferocity; haughty in Combat, but very affable in Conversation; and so modest, as to create Admiration. Being generous and liberal, he made it his greatest Pleasure to reward Merit, where-ever it appeared. He possessed all the Qualities that constitute the true Hero. In this King's Reign lived *John Wickliff*, one of the first who ventured to expose the Errors of the Church of *Rome*. The Manufacture of Cloth was then brought into *England*; also 50,000 died in *London* of the Plague in one Year. King *Edward* commanded all Pleas to be made in *English*, and not in *French*, as had been used from the Conquest. He lived sixty four Years, and reigned fifty. As to his Character, his bare Aspect attracted Respect and Veneration; gentle and beneficent towards the virtuous, but inexorable to the wicked; a Friend

Friend to the Poor, the Widow, and Orphan, and in general to all unfortunate Persons ; his Valour was known and admired by all the World, and yet this never puffed him up with Pride ; his Subjects were very dear to him. In short, he might have been considered as a perfect Prince, had he not through Ambition broke the Peace he had concluded with the Scots. Before he died he had the Mortification of experiencing the Ingratitude of his Courtiers, Chaplains, and great Favourite *Alice*, who all pilfered and forsook him as soon as they saw he was near his End. He had many Sons and Daughters ; some of whom we shall speak of in the following Reigns.



A. D. 1377.

RICHARD II. Son of Edward the Black Prince, succeeded his Grandfather at eleven Years of Age, but inherited none of their Virtues ; he governed the Kingdom by Favourites, namely, *Robert de Vere*, Earl of *Oxford* ; the Archbishop of *York*, *Michael de la Pool*, and Judge *Tresilian*, who always found Reasons to enforce the King's Will. But his Uncles, the Duke of *Lancaster*, the Earl of *Cambridge*, after Duke of *York*, and the Duke of *Gloucester*, ambitious of preserving the sovereign Authority in their own Hands, stirred up the People against his Favourites. By these Factions the Kingdom was brought to the Brink of Ruin, and occasioned the Death of many Noblemen ; for he caused the Duke of *Gloucester* to be smothered at *Calais*, the Earl of *Arundel* to be beheaded, the Earls of *Warwick* and *Hereford*, who was Son to and afterwards Duke of *Lancaster*, to be banished ; but the latter being recalled by the English Nobility to head the Malecontents, who resolved

solved no longer to bear the King's Lavishness and Profusion, he, by the Assistance of the Duke of Bretagne, landed in *Yorkshire*, and soon after *Richard* was seized, and imprisoned in the *Castle of Flint*, near *Chester*, and afterwards carried to *London*, where the Duke assembled a Parliament, brought the King to his Trial, and deposed him. He was accused of oppressing his Subjects with heavy Taxes, squandering away his Revenues, enriching his Favourites with the Blood of his People, putting the Duke of Gloucester, his Uncle, to Death, without Trial; and ruining and putting to Death great Numbers of his Subjects. After resigning his Crown, he was confined in *Pontefract* or *Pomfret Castle* in *Yorkshire*, where he was barbarously murdered; so little Distance is there between the Prison and Death of a Prince! Historians give him the this Character; that he was the most handsome Monarch in the World; of an indifferent Genius, kind and magnificent; but soft, timid, and too much devoted to his Favourites. In his Reign Powder, and the Use of Guns, were first discovered; and *Chaucer* the Poet lived; also *Wat Tyler* and *Jack Straw* occasioned great Disturbances; but Sir *William Walworth*, Lord Mayor of *London*, struck *Tyler* dead with his Sword, and *Jack Straw*, his Companion, was soon after executed, which put an End to the Insurrection. He reigned 22 Years.



16

The Line of LANCASTER, called the Red Rose.

A. D. 1399.

HENRY IV. from his Birth Place in York-bire called Bolingbroke, was Son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, the fourth Son of Edward III. Though he came to the Crown by the Power of the Sword, yet it was also by the Consent of the People. The Issue of Lionel,

Duke of Clarence, third Son to Edward III. who had a precedent Right, was set aside. His Reign was a continual Series of Revolutions, which filled England with Blood and Misery; the greatest Part of it being spent in suppressing Factions, quelling the Scots, and reducing the Welch, who, under Owen Glendower, had rebelled. In the Action with these last, Henry is said to have killed thirty-six Men with his own Hand. He was the first King who burnt the Lollards, Followers of Wickliff; he performed few Actions worthy of Notice; he died in the 46th Year of his Age, and the 14th of his Reign; and was succeeded by his Son.

In this King's Reign, at Skinner's-well near Clerkenwell was a great Play, which lasted seven Days, containing a Representation of several Things from the Creation of the World. Most of the Nobility and Gentry were present. And afterwards began a royal Tournement in Smithfield.

HENRY

A. D. 1412.



lewd Companions, revived the *English* Title to the Crown of France, and so effectually pursued it, that with 13,000 Men he defeated the French at Agincourt, above 50000 strong. Charles VI. was then King of France, a weak Prince, who was prevailed on by his Queen to disinherit the Dauphin, and to give Catherine his Daughter to Henry; upon which Henry was declared Heir to the Crown of France, and Regent during the King's Life, which was ratified by the States of that Kingdom; but he did not live to sit on the Throne of France; he reigned about ten Years; caused Sir John Oldcastle, and Sir Roger *Aston* to be hanged and burnt at Smithfield, for maintaining Dr. *Wickliff's* Opinions. As to his Person and Character, he was well shaped, an experienced Soldier, and a good Politician; he had a very extensive and elevated Genius, fruitful in great Projects, which by his well-laid Schemes seldom failed of Success; he was a great Friend to Justice, which he regarded himself, and made others do the same; he was devout, without Oftentation, and a great Protector of the Church and Clergy; he was esteemed ambitious, not liberal, but inclined to Cruelty; and succeeded by his only Son.

HENRY



A. D. 1422.

HENRY VI. but nine Months old. The late King left the Government of England, till his Son was of Age, to Humphrey Duke of Gloucester; and the Regency of France to John Duke of Bedford, his two Brothers. The French King dying soon after Henry V. Henry VI.

was crowned at Paris, King of France, and Things had a good Aspect there till the Siege of Orleans was raised by Joan the Shepherdes, who pretended she was expressly sent from Heaven for that Purpose; after which the English Interest declined; but she was afterwards taken Prisoner by the English, tried and condemned for being a Witch, and burnt alive at Rouen in Normandy. There was nothing more contributed to our Loss of France, than our Distractions in England, by Richard Duke of York's Claim to the Crown, who was Son of Richard Earl of Cambridge, and Grandson of Edmund Duke of York, fifth Son of Edward III. by the Mother's Side, who was sole Heir of the House of Mortimer, or March; this House descended from Lionel, third Son of Edward III. elder Brother of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. These Disputes about the Succession occasioned civil Wars in England for many Years, and thirteen set Battles were fought with various Success. By this Means the French threw off the English Yoke, and in five Years Time recovered their Liberty, placing the Dauphin Charles VII. on the Throne of France. At home England became a Field of Blood, one Party being for the King in Possession, and the other for the House of York; the first distinguished by the red Rose, the other the white. Henry had a Queen of a martial and imperious Spirit, Margaret of Anjou, who, to maintain him on the Throne, and

and secure the Succession to their young Son Prince *Edward*, headed a powerful Army, and, after two Defeats, killed the Duke of *York*, and his second Son, the Earl of *Rutland*, and fixed their Heads, with the Earl of *Salisbury*, on the Walls of the City of *York*. The Duke of *York* left three Sons, *Edward Earl of March, Clarence, and Richard Duke of Gloucester*. After this, *Edward Earl of March*, reinforced with new Levies, attacked and defeated the Queen; Historians say that 36 776 Men were killed in this Battle: Upon which *Edward* was proclaimed and crowned King of *England*. In this Reign was paid the first Custom for all Merchandizes imported and exported out of the Realm; also Printing was first invented. In 1438 was a terrible Famine in *France* and *England*, and followed by the Plague. King *Henry* was a good, chaste, just, temperate and pious Prince, and bore with uncommon Patience all the sad Accidents of Life with great Resignation to the sovereign Disposer of Kingdoms; his great and only Defect was a Kind of natural Imbecillity, which rendered him incapable of governing without the Assistance of others.

The Line of YORK; or White Rose.



A. D. 1460.

EDWARD IV. eldest Son of the Duke of *York*, proved a martial Prince in War, but effeminate in Peace. Wonderful were the Changes and Revolutions of his Reign before it came to be settled; *Margaret, Henry VIth's Queen* being resolved to dethrone him, or perish in the Attempt; and not till after nine bloody Battles was the King quietly seated on the Throne. The potent

or perish in the Attempt; and not till after nine bloody Battles was the King quietly seated on the Throne. The potent

potent Earl of *Warwick*, the Duke of *Clarence* the King's Brother, and other Nobles, being disgusted at *Edward* for under-marrying himself to *Elizabeth*, Sir *John Grey's* Widow, joined with Queen *Margaret*. But the Earl soon lost his Life. This however deterred not the Queen from pursuing the War. Each Party prevailed by Turns, but the Parliament was always for the strongest. After various different Successes and Revolutions, and that *Edward* was forced to fly into *France*, *Henry* deposed, and *Edward* re-established; (for *Henry* was twice made a Prisoner to *Edward*, and once *Edward* to him) at last *Tewksbury* Fight decided the Quarrel in Favour of *Edward*, when Queen *Margaret*, and her Son Prince *Edward*, were taken Prisoners. The Duke of *Gloucester* murdered the Prince, and soon after *Henry* his Father in the *Tower*. But the Queen was ransomed, by *Lewis* King of *France*, for 50,000 Crowns. After this King *Edward* visited all his Dominions, and had 1400 Gentlemen, for adhering to King *Henry*, put to Death; and he, or his Brother *Richard* Duke of *Gloucester*, caused the Duke of *Clarence*, their Brother, to be drowned in a Butt of *Malmsey*. King *Edward* before he was King, was surprizing active, vigilant, and warlike; but soon after he devoted himself wholly to his Pleasures; he was reckoned one of the handsomest Men in all *Europe*; he left *Edward*, who succeeded him, and *Richard*, both whom the Duke of *Gloucester* soon dispatched to make Way for himself. *Jane Shore* was one of his Mistresses, for he had three. This King sat in Person three Days together to see how the Laws were executed. He died in the 42d Year of his Age, and the 23d of his Reign; and was succeeded by

EDWARD



A. D. 1483.

EDWARD V. his eldest Son, about 12 Years of Age ; but he with his Brother *Richard* were murdered in their Beds, by their unnatural Uncle the Duke of Gloucester, so that he reigned only two Months. Although he was proclaimed, yet he was never crowned King ;

for which Reason, the Crown hangs at some Distance over the Head of his Statues, and Pictures.



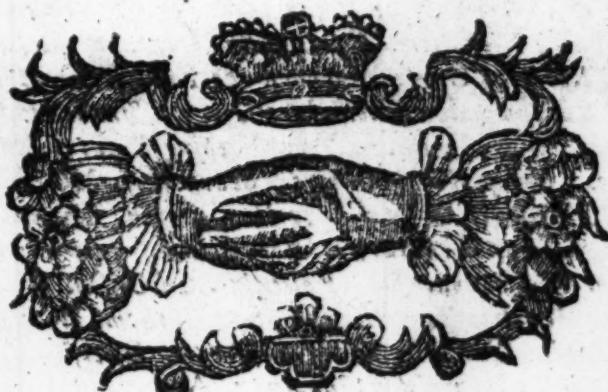
A. D. 1483.

RICHARD III. surnamed *Crook-Back*, the *English Nero*, who, to make his Way clear to the Crown, murdered King Henry VI. Prince *Edward* his Son, the Duke of Clarence his own Brother, *Edward V.* and his Brother *Richard*, his two Nephews, *Henry Duke of Buckingham* his dear Friend and Coadjutor in these impious Practices, and his Wife *Anne* ; besides several others. The *English* had no Reason to like *Richard*, and they besides wanted *Henry Earl of Richmond*, of the House of *Lancaster*, then at the *French Court*, to be their King, and to whom the Crown of *England* was proposed, with a Proviso, that he would marry *Elizabeth*, eldest Daughter of King *Edward IV.* and thereby unite the two Houses of *York* and *Lancaster*. This he accepted of, and landed at *Milford-Haven* in *Wales* with 2000 *French*, and the *Welch* joined him with a considerable Body. The Lord

Stan-

Stanley and Sir William his Brother affisted him with 7000 more, and his whole Army amounting to upwards of 12000 more, advanced towards King Richard near Bosworth in Leicestershire, where a Battle ensued, and though he fought most valiantly, he was as last defeated and killed in the Fight, and the Crown was conferred upon the Earl of Richmond. And thus an End was put to the bloody Wars between the two Houses of York and Lancaster, which began upon the Intrusion of King Henry IV. and in which twelve pitched Battles were fought, and 2 Kings, 1 Prince, 10 Dukes, 2 Marquisses, 21 Earls, 27 Lords, 2 Viscounts, 1 Lord Prior, 1 Judge, 139 Knights, 441 Esquires, and 84,998 private Soldiers were slain.

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